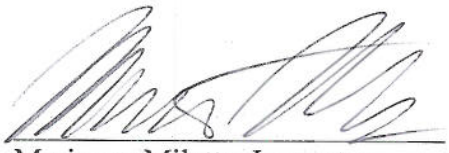
PCB COMPLIANCE INSPECTION AT
LIQUID ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS
527 Pleasant Street
Attleboro, Massachusetts



Marianne Milette, Inspector

May 7, 2015
Inspection Date

May 8, 2015
Date Report Drafted

May 11, 2015
Date Report Finalized

I. Facility Name, Address:

Liquid Environmental Solutions
527 Pleasant Street
Attleboro, MA 02703

II. Inspection Participants:

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)
Marianne Milette, Inspector
Kimberly Tisa, PCB Coordinator

LIQUID ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS (LES)
Josh Hanlon, Regional Director of Growth Operations

III. Background:

The prior facility owner/operator Newstream LLC (NS) had a Level II Class B (3) Hazardous Waste Recycling Permit (Permit) issued by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MADEP) to market specification used oil fuel (SUOF). The Permit allowed NS to receive SUOF and to separate out any water and/or solids prior to storing and marketing the SUOF. In 2013, NS discovered PCB contamination in the SUOF portion of its operations. NS through its consultant, Clean Harbors Environmental Services, Inc. (CH) submitted to EPA an implementation plan for the cleaning of storage tanks impacted by oil and water containing PCBs. Based on the information provided by NS and CH, the SUOF operation was decontaminated and decommissioned. NS sold the facility to LES in 2014. The MADEP has not issued a Permit to LES for a SUOF operation.

LES notified K. Tisa that PCB contamination at 50 parts per million (ppm) or greater was discovered in oily wastewater contained in a tank (TF-7) at the 527 Pleasant Street, Attleboro, MA facility (the facility). A follow up letter dated April 21, 2015 (letter) with supporting documentation were e-mailed to K. Tisa and the MADEP was copied. In the letter, LES indicated Cyn Environmental Services (CYN) would be removing the PCB contaminated wastewater and disposing of the waste in compliance with applicable TSCA regulations governing PCB disposal. Refer to Attachment A for a copy of the letter and supporting documentation. On April 27, 2015, CYN notified K. Tisa that they would be cleaning the tank at LES on April 29, 2015, refer to Attachment B.

The MADEP contacted LES and requested additional information. Information was provided to the MADEP along with a cover letter dated May 1, 2015. The MADEP

forwarded this information to EPA. Refer to Attachment C for excerpts of the information provided.

The MADEP was notified of EPA's intent to conduct a PCB inspection of the LES facility.

IV. Opening Conference:

At approximately 9:30 A.M. on May 7, 2015 K. Tisa and M. Milette (the inspectors) arrived at LES to conduct an unannounced PCB compliance inspection under the authority of Section 11 of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). The inspection was targeted to follow-up on the PCB issue identified above. This type of inspection is part of the FY15 TSCA PCB Neutral Inspection Scheme. Inspector credentials were presented after which M. Milette presented Notices of Inspection and Confidential Business Information which were signed by J. Hanlon. M. Milette explained that the focus of the inspection was to follow up on the PCBs discovered at the facility.

J. Hanlon explained that LES Holding Company (LESHC) owns the building. LES uses a portion of the facility and LESHC rents out the remaining areas to other tenants. J. Hanlon explained that LES receives non-hazardous industrial wastewater. Wastewater received from ground remediation projects and from sources such as wire drawing and ink operations are placed into tanks TF-1, TF-2, TF-4, TF-5 and TF-6, which are 10,000 gallon cone bottom tanks. Emulsified wastewater is placed into tanks TF-7, TF-8 and TF-9 which are 10,000 gallon flat bottom tanks. The wastewater goes through a series of vessels (such as decanters, clarifiers and bioreactor) prior to discharge. The wastewater discharge is a continuous operation. LES has a Wastewater Discharge Permit (WDP) from the City of Attleboro, Massachusetts. Sludge goes through a filter press and the water is routed to the wastewater discharge and the filter "cake" is disposed of as waste.

Tank TF-3 is for antifreeze received for the antifreeze recycling operation. This facility is the only LES facility that recycles antifreeze and J. Hanlon indicated LES has made the decision to discontinue the antifreeze recycling operation.

M. Milette asked J. Hanlon what prompted the sampling and discovery of the PCB contamination at the facility. J. Hanlon stated that the facility was going through a process of relocating tanks and changing the covers on tanks to improve odor control. When removing the cover on tank TF-7 an oil sheen was noted. Upon discovery of the oil sheen a sample of the oil was collected. Because of the oil sheen discovered in tank TF-7, LES collected samples of liquids (water or oil) in other vessels downstream of tank TF-7. Refer to Attachment C for detailed information regarding the sampling and results. J. Hanlon provided the inspectors with a Process Flow Diagram, D-200 showing the connections and flow of wastewater through the tanks and vessels, refer to Attachment D.

J. Hanlon indicated tank TF-7 was locked down after the discovery of the oil sheen. CYN was hired to remove the waste from the tank and to decontaminate the tank. The liquid waste from the tank was shipped on April 29, 2015 as PCB regulated waste on manifest number 014684504 JJK. Refer to document MM050715-D01 for a copy of the manifest. J. Hanlon indicated CYN would be returning to remove the sludge from the tank and to decontaminate the tank.

J. Hanlon indicated that even though tank TF-7 is locked down, the other receiving tanks are still in operation and wastewater is still being discharged on a 24 hour/7 day a week basis. M. Milette asked J. Hanlon if the WDP had a PCB limit. J. Hanlon stated the WDP did not have a PCB limit and there were no requirements to sample for PCBs. J. Hanlon indicated after the discovery of PCBs in the wastewater system, the City of Attleboro collected a sample of the water discharge in December 2014 and it was non-detect for PCBs. The inspectors discussed the issue that if there is no PCB limit in the WDP, then the default limit for PCBs is 0.5 parts per billion (ppb) specified in the PCB Regulations The reporting limit for PCBs in the sample analyzed was 1.0 ppb for all aroclors except for aroclor 1221 where the reporting limit was 2.0 ppb. J. Hanlon contacted one of his employees and instructed him to contact the laboratory (New England Testing Laboratories, Inc.) to confirm if the laboratory could achieve a reporting limit of 0.5 ppb or less. The employee reported back that the laboratory could achieve this and he had collected a water sample and was sending it off for analysis. J. Hanlon agreed to provide a copy of the analytical result once it was received.

V. Site Inspection

J. Hanlon showed the inspectors the entire facility operations. The Process Flow Diagram was used as a guide for following the process from the incoming waste to the wastewater discharge. J. Hanlon pointed out the locations of where samples were collected from the November 2014 sampling event. Fourteen photographs were taken of various tanks, vessels and sampling locations. Refer to the receipt for samples and documents for a listing of the photographs.

J. Hanlon pointed out the disconnected tanks from the SUOF process used by NS. The area in which the SUOF process had been in operation is now rented to a cabinet manufacturer. The tanks are currently stored in the LES portion of the building.

VI. Closing Conference

The inspectors discussed with J. Hanlon the issue that PCBs of 50 ppm or greater were present in tank TF-7. Since tank TF-7 feeds waste through a series of pipes and vessels, PCBs found in these downstream locations would be from a source of regulated PCBs. In addition, PCBs found in the outside trench (9.4 ppm) may be from a regulated source

of PCBs. The inspectors requested that J. Hanlon/LES inform EPA of what steps they plan on taking to address the PCB contamination at the facility.

J. Hanlon was presented with and signed a copy of the Declaration of Confidential Business Information and the Receipt for Samples and Documents forms.

VII. Documents

Refer to the Receipt for Samples and Documents form.

VIII. Addendum

On May 8, 2015, LES provided a copy of the analytical result of the water discharge sample collected on May 7, 2015. The analytical report indicated PCBs were non-detect with a reporting limit of 0.2 ppb.